

Claims 8, 10, 11, and 16 were also rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10-045642. This reference discloses a bis-tolane wherein an end ring has an alkyl substituent, the opposite ring has a high polarity substituent, and the compound has at least four additional fluoro substituents. Claim 8 of the present invention has been
5 amended such that when R_m as recited in Claim 8 is an alkyl group, that no more than one of the substituent pairs Y₁, Y₂, Z₁, Z₂, or A₁, A₂ has fluoro substituents. A similar amendment has been made to Claim 16, which recites mixtures of bis-tolane compounds. Thus, the Applicant believes that independent Claims 8 and 16 and dependent Claims 10 and 11 are no longer anticipated by this reference, and the Applicant respectfully requests
10 that the rejection be withdrawn.

OK
3. JP 09-255954

The Examiner rejected claims 8-14 and 16 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 09-255954. The Applicant is unclear as to how this reference anticipates the present invention with regard to these claims. This reference apparently only discloses singular tolanes, not bis-tolanes, as recited by claims 8-14 and 16 of the present invention. Thus, the Applicant believes that the rejection is improper, and respectfully requests that this rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

20

Closing Remarks:

The Applicant respectfully submits, in light of the above amendments and remarks, that the application and all pending claims are now in allowable condition. The Applicant
25 thus respectfully requests timely allowance of the application.

In the event the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, or believes that a conversation with either the Applicant or Applicant's representative would be beneficial
30 the Examiner is encouraged contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cary Tope-McKay", is written over a horizontal line.

Cary Tope-McKay
Registration No. 41,350

5

Tope-McKay & Associates
23852 Pacific Coast Highway #311
10 Malibu, CA 90265
310.589.8158 ph
310.943.2736 fax
cmckay@topemckay.com